



Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Growing up I used to hear the elders, and in particular my grandmother, use this phrase: “We’ve come a mighty long way. A mighty long way.”

Yes, we have come a mighty long way as we continue to live into being the Church. There has been the coming together of two wonderful parishes, and we will always recognize the histories and the legacies of both All Saints and Ascension. We give God all the praise for that was, is, and will be. Our collective story is still being written with new leadership, a new worship space, and above all, a renewed spirit. COVID 19 may have slowed some hopes and dreams but we never stopped being church. We can only move forward.

After much prayer and many discussions during the year, along with the suggestion and support of our bishop, the Vestry and I feel that it is now time to rename ourselves. A new name will help us to “move forward in a positive and transformative way.” A new name will help us re-identify ourselves, our Episcopal presence within the community of Northwoods, and within the Diocese of Missouri.

Since the beginning of the year, several names were put into the hat. We now thoughtfully and prayerfully present the following four names for your consideration. We would like your input in deciding which of these names best fits this community of faith. In order to do that, we will hold a forum on Wednesday, November 3, at 6 pm via Zoom.

Please find attached to this letter, four names with descriptions and images to help guide your thoughts and prayers. If we are able to come to a consensus, our new name can be ratified at Convention in November.

May God continue to guide our feet as we walk this journey together.

Your sister in the Redeemer,

Rev. Renee+

Our Mission: *To be the Light of Christ that builds relationships in our congregation, our community, and with our God.*
Our Vision: *Finding Christ in relationships.*

Images and Descriptions

EPIPHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The name “Epiphany” is derived from a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “appearing.” We know this first showing or appearance of Jesus as it relates to the story of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).

The Feast of the Epiphany (a principal feast in the Church) is celebrated on January 6.



CHRIST OUR LIGHT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” John 1: 1-9



ST. MONICA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MONICA (c. 332 – 387) was an early African [Christian saint](#) and the mother of St. [Augustine](#) (Augustine was [Bishop of Hippo](#) and considered the greatest theologian in the history of Western Christianity). She is remembered and honored for her outstanding [Christian virtues](#), particularly the suffering caused by her husband's [adultery](#), and her prayerful life dedicated to the reformation of her son, who wrote extensively of her pious acts and life with her in his [Confessions](#). Popular Christian legends recall Saint Monica [weeping](#) every night for her son Augustine. She is known as the patron saint of abuse victims, wives, alcoholics and widows.

Monica's feast day is May 4.



BLESSED BARBARA HARRIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Barbara Clementine Harris (June 12, 1930-March 13, 2020), was the first woman to be consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Communion. She was elected suffragan bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts on September 24, 1988. She retired in 2002 but continued to be an active and prominent figure in the Church. Bishop Harris served as a role model to many as she lent her voice for inclusion and equality within the Episcopal Church. She died March 13, 2020.

Currently there is a growing movement to add Bishop Barbara Harris to The Episcopal Church's calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts. An icon was commissioned by Bishop Deon Johnson, 11th Bishop of Missouri. The icon was blessed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry during his visit to the diocese on Sunday, September 19, 2021.

